

03050207-040

(*Salkehatchie River*)

General Description

Watershed 03050207-040 is located in Bamberg, Allendale, Hampton, and Colleton Counties and consists primarily of the *Salkehatchie River* and its tributaries from Wells Branch to its confluence with the Little Salkehatchie River. The watershed occupies 101,441 acres of the Lower Coastal Plain region of South Carolina. The predominant soil types consist of an association of the Rains-Torhunta-Lynchburg-Goldsboro series. The erodibility of the soil (K) averages 0.15, and the slope of the terrain averages 1.5%, with a range of 0-2%. Land use/land cover in the watershed includes: 33.0% forested land, 32.2% forested wetland, 29.9% agricultural land, 3.8% barren land, 0.6% nonforested wetland, 0.3% urban land, and 0.2% water.

This section of the Salkehatchie River accepts drainage from its upstream reaches (03050207-010, -030), together with Gin Branch, Kirkland Creek (Cypress Pond, Alligator Bay, Ocean Pond), Bear Branch, Pretty Creek, Hog Branch, and Threemile Creek (Church Branch, Meadow Branch, Big Branch). Savannah Creek (Long Branch) enters the river next, followed by Moselle Swamp, the Whippy Swamp watershed, Ricepatch Creek, and Tennants Branch. The Salkehatchie River joins with the Little Salkehatchie River watershed at the base of this watershed to form the Combahee River. There are a total of 187.7 stream miles and 171.9 acres of lake waters in this watershed, all classified FW. The Rivers Bridge State Historic Site is located in this watershed near the Threemile Creek confluence with the Salkehatchie River.

Surface Water Quality

<u>Station #</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Description</u>
CSTL-048	W	FW	SALKEHATCHIE RIVER AT US 301 & US 321
CSTL-053	BIO	FW	SAVANNAH CREEK AT S-05-87
CSTL-006	P	FW	SALKEHATCHIE RIVER AT US 601, 9MI NE OF HAMPTON
CSTL-104	W	FW	SALKEHATCHIE RIVER AT SC 63

Salkehatchie River – There are three monitoring stations along this section of the Salkehatchie River. At the furthest upstream site (*CSTL-048*), aquatic life uses are fully supported. Recreational uses are partially supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions. At the next site downstream (*CSTL-006*), aquatic life uses are fully supported. There is a significant increasing trend in pH. Significant decreasing trends in five-day biochemical oxygen demand and total nitrogen concentrations suggest improving conditions for these parameters. Recreational uses are partially supported due to fecal coliform bacteria excursions. At the downstream site (*CSTL-104*), aquatic life and recreational uses are fully supported.

Savannah Creek (CSTL-053) - Aquatic life uses are fully supported based on macroinvertebrate community data.

A fish consumption advisory has been issued by the Department for mercury and includes the Salkehatchie River within this watershed (see advisory p.35).

NPDES Program

Active NPDES Facilities

RECEIVING STREAM

FACILITY NAME

PERMITTED FLOW @ PIPE (MGD)

NPDES#

TYPE

COMMENT

GIN BRANCH
MOHAWK INDUSTRIES/ULMER PLT.
PIPE #: 001 FLOW: 0.003

SC0004073
MINOR INDUSTRIAL

SAVANNAH CREEK
TOWN OF EHRHARDT WWTP
PIPE #: 01A FLOW: 0.05
PIPE #: 01B FLOW: 0.05

SC0042099
MINOR DOMESTIC

Growth Potential

There is a low potential for growth in this watershed, which contains the Town of Ulmer and a portion of Ehrhardt.